

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2005

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAM BRINGS CHEER TO CHILDREN OF GUARD MEMBERS

NIANTIC, Conn. – The Connecticut National Guard Family Program will host "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny," on Saturday, March 26, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. at Camp Rell in Niantic.

The day will consist of Guard members and their children meeting the Easter bunny, an Easter egg hunt, Easter baskets and a breakfast.

The focus of the eighth annual event are the children of Guard members and the children of Guard members who have been deployed and who are currently involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Since September 11, 2001, the Connecticut National Guard has made the Family Support Program a top priority. This is just one of many family events that have done over that past year.

More than 2,600 Connecticut National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were mobilized and deployed to Southwest Asia in the past two years. Currently 400 Connecticut National Guard soldiers and airmen remain on active duty.

This event is open to the media.

<u>Directions:</u> I 95 North to exit 74. Take a right off the exit onto Rte 161. Follow approximately 2 miles and take a left on to Smith Street. Take third left to front entrance into Camp Rell.